

TRANSCRIPT OF ROADLESS RULE
ANILCA SUBSISTENCE PUBLIC HEARING

CRAIG, ALASKA
11/6/2019

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Craig, Alaska - 11/6/2019)

3 (On record)

4 MR. VANORMER: All right. We're going to go
5 ahead and get started with the subsistence hearing. If
6 I can get folks to kind of put their attention up front
7 here. All right. I'm going to assume many of you have
8 done this before, but what I'm going to do is I'm going
9 to formally open the subsistence hearing by reading
10 this script here. After I'm done with that I'll start
11 calling up folks who have submitted a sheet for wanting
12 to provide some testimony.

13 So with that I believe all the instructions are
14 here I'm going to read will get us going and if we need
15 to dialogue further, we can do that before we kind of
16 get it going here.

17 So I want to thank everyone for attending
18 tonight's public meeting. This is an opportunity for
19 you to provide input to the proposed Alaska Roadless
20 Rule and corresponding Draft Environmental Impact
21 Statement.

22 Specifically the Forest Service is seeking your
23 comment on a proposed rule on how roadless areas in
24 Alaska and the Tongass National Forest will be managed
25 in the future. On October 18, 2019 the Notice for

1 Proposed Rulemaking was published in the Federal
2 Register and indicated a preferred Alternative 6
3 exemption of the 2001 National Roadless Area
4 Conservation Rule applied to the Tongass National
5 Forest.

6 An exemption would remove all regulatory
7 restrictions currently in place by the 2001 Roadless
8 Rule on the Tongass National Forest. The Forest
9 Service will be accepting comments on this proposed
10 rule until December 17, 2019. Tonight will be an
11 opportunity for you to provide oral and written
12 comments.

13 My name is Chad VanOrmer and I am the Director
14 of Ecosystem Planning and Budget for the USDA Forest
15 Service in Alaska. Tonight I'm here to serve as the
16 meeting facilitator, so my job is to make sure that
17 everyone here would like to make oral or written
18 comments on the proposed rule is able to do so.

19 The meeting has been scheduled to last until
20 9:00 o'clock tonight in order to receive your comments.
21 We'll be using digital voice recorders located on the
22 table near the speaker to record your comments. Your
23 voice recording will then be transcribed by a
24 professional court reporter and included in the project
25 record for the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Project.

1 During this comment portion of the meeting we
2 will not be answering any questions, allowing us time
3 to listen and hear your comments. In addition to
4 tonight's meeting we'll be hosting additional public
5 information meetings in communities throughout
6 Southeast Alaska, Anchorage and Washington, DC.

7 In conjunction with those meetings we will
8 collect subsistence testimony at communities in
9 Southeast Alaska to include Ketchikan, Craig, Hydaburg,
10 Kasaan, Yakutat, Tenakee Springs, Wrangell, Gustavus,
11 Petersburg, Kake, Sitka, Angoon, Thorne Bay and
12 Skagway. The current schedule of the meetings can be
13 found on the Alaska Roadless Rule website.

14 Because of the importance of your comments it
15 is necessary that we follow certain procedures during
16 the meeting. As you entered the meeting earlier you
17 were asked to sign in. It is important that every
18 person present sign in so that we have a complete
19 record of all those who attended or participate in this
20 meeting.

21 If you plan to make oral comments tonight,
22 please be sure to indicate it on the sign-in sheet and
23 submit one of these cards to us so that we can get you
24 in the queue. Also if you're attending this meeting or
25 submitting comments on behalf of a group or

1 organization, please indicate the name of the group or
2 entity that you represent.

3 Let me emphasize that the principal purpose of
4 the public comment part of this meeting is to receive
5 information and comments from you on the record.

6 Please limit your comments to -- well, I don't think
7 we'll need limits because we only have about four so
8 far and we have two hours. So we'll just kind of be
9 conscious of the time that we have here. If we run out
10 of time though before the end of the night, please
11 submit your comments in writing prior to December 17,
12 2019. Handouts are available with information on how
13 to provide your written comments.

14 So with that I have about four people that have
15 indicated they wanted to provide some testimony here.
16 What I'm going to do is I will call up the first person
17 and then also indicate who the next one is in line so
18 that they can be prepared to come up here.

19 So with that -- yes.

20 MS. FECKO: If we submit a comment tonight, are
21 we still able to submit additional comments?

22 MR. VANORMER: Yes. You can submit as many
23 comments as you like.

24 MS. FECKO: Because my understanding was this
25 was with regards to subsistence. So I have other

1 comments to make that are maybe not specific to
2 subsistence.

3 MR. VANORMER: Correct. So this hearing is
4 intended for subsistence, impacts to subsistence.

5 MS. FECKO: Okay.

6 MR. WHITEHEAD: Does the public comment carry
7 more weight than a written comment and does the public
8 comment -- do you want me to, what do you guys call it,
9 put it on record?

10 MR. VANORMER: Yeah. All the comments carry
11 the same weight. This particular testimony here, the
12 comments that we receive will help better inform the
13 effects analysis on subsistence resources is what
14 that's going to do. So in the end we'll be making a
15 determination of an effect on subsistence resources.
16 So the comments that we collect here tonight will help
17 inform that.

18 There is no objection period. No
19 administrative review in this project as I indicated
20 earlier. So whether you comment or not there is no
21 standing in our administrative review procedures. It
22 can go straight to litigation if people want to contest
23 the decision in the end.

24 All right. So with that I'm going to go ahead
25 and call the first person up. The time now is about

1 7:05 and I'd like to call up Doug Rhodes. On deck.....

2 MR. RHODES: Do we go up somewhere?

3 MR. VANORMER: Yeah. You can come on up, have
4 a seat or stand, whatever you're comfortable. We have
5 the two microphones sitting here on the table and
6 they'll be able to kind of collect what it is. But I
7 do need you to kind of be up near the microphone here.

8 MR. RHODES: Okay. Oh, is that the microphone
9 there?

10 MR. VANORMER: Yeah, these two voice recorders
11 here.

12 MR. RHODES: Oh, okay.

13 MR. VANORMER: And Kurt Whitehead would be on
14 deck for the next person.

15 MR. RHODES: I don't want to sit down, but I
16 can just stand like that?

17 MR. VANORMER: Yep, you can stand.

18 MR. RHODES: Well, I don't really have any
19 prepared comments, but since it was an opportunity to
20 comment I thought I better do it. My name is Doug
21 Rhodes. I've been on the island since 1981, '82,
22 something like that. Grew up in Southeast Alaska. I
23 grew up in Sitka with pulp mill town. I grew up with
24 industrial logging all around and a town covered in a
25 haze of smoke all the time. People don't get that. If

1 you go to Sitka today, it looks way different than it
2 did back in the day.

3 Subsistence has always been an important part
4 of my family. My grandparents had fox farms out in
5 rural areas in Southeast. They pretty much lived off
6 the land and the sea. It's an important component for
7 these communities.

8 My big objection is that I over the years have
9 picked all the little places where I used to go deer
10 hunting. I've had to change over the years because of
11 logging in certain areas and then privatizing of the
12 Tongass either through the Native corporations or more
13 recently through the State Forest and Mental Health and
14 all the other State land.

15 So the little pieces of pie keeps getting
16 smaller and smaller. To go deer hunting in those areas
17 you're also going in the areas that I know people would
18 love to take the timber out of, so then the pie gets
19 even smaller and smaller. I just feel that our voices
20 need to be heard a little bit. There's more to that
21 land out there than just a log or a road. And then 50
22 years later we'll have to come back in and do
23 mitigation on the streams that were screwed up because
24 of the logging.

25 It just seems to me that we need -- enough is

1 enough and we need to keep the Roadless Rule intact. I
2 really hope that Mr. Secretary back there listens to as
3 many comments as he can because I just feel that this
4 is almost a waste of time. I mean I've been involved
5 in a lot of these and I know people have been involved
6 a lot more than me on these things. I just don't feel
7 that we get heard.

8 Then we get lumped in with outside interests.
9 You know, we're not -- the local people are in favor of
10 it and outside interests are the ones that influence
11 it. The way I think about it, is that the outside
12 interests right now are making the decision to pick No.
13 6, you know. The Secretary doesn't live here.

14 So those are my comments. Thank you.

15 MR. VANORMER: All right. Thank you. Next up
16 we have Mr. Kurt Whitehead and after that Peggy Stevens
17 will be next. Would you like the microphone?

18 MR. WHITEHEAD: My voice is pretty loud. No
19 thanks. So I came to Alaska in '95 right out of
20 college. Got a job fly fishing in Western Alaska. A
21 couple years later got an assistant guide's license. I
22 guided all over the peninsula, up in the arctic. Got a
23 job out of Sitka in '99. Worked on Baranof until 2003,
24 2004. Guided on Kuiu, all around Baranof.

25 Spent from April until December every year

1 tramping all over; goats, brown bear, Sitka black-tail,
2 sea ducks, charter fishing. So I got to see the
3 contrast between Baranof and Kuiu and Prince of Wales.
4 Those are the three islands that I'm very familiar
5 with. Started guiding down on -- out of POW in 2006.
6 My wife and I operate a small guide business out of the
7 Klawock Harbor, so I spend an inordinate amount of time
8 on the water.

9 The contrast between Baranof and Prince of
10 Wales is night and day. It is amazing. You've got old
11 growth up there like you can't believe. The sunlight
12 actually hits the forest. They had 100 percent deer
13 mortality in 2006, the winter of 2006. Well, between
14 2006, '07 and '08 there was 35 feet of snow that fell
15 on the east side of Baranof. There was 10 feet of snow
16 in April. There was 100 percent deer mortality. The
17 deer were wiped out.

18 Now there's so many deer that they just issued
19 two more per resident, so you, as Alaska resident or as
20 a non-resident -- I'm not sure on non-resident, but the
21 limit used to be four deer, now it's six. Why does the
22 deer rebound so much? We have more hunters. We don't
23 have wolves. We all know that. But you've got old
24 growth.

25 So from Prince of Wales I come down here, I

1 drive around these roads and it's great habitat if
2 you're a slug. There's no light that hits the forest,
3 the deer can't walk through there, the wolves can't
4 walk through there, the bears can't, humans can't walk
5 through there and there's just hardly any old growth.

6 So the old growth is what the deer needs to
7 overwinter. The old growth is the visually appealing
8 stuff. The old growth unfortunately is what the mill
9 thrives on, but yet our island is full of second
10 growth. The mill doesn't care. I'm sure they care,
11 but they don't -- I guess my whole point is we have
12 such a small amount of old growth on our island.

13 We have so many roads. We have so many
14 clearcuts. We have so much second growth that isn't
15 habitat for anything other than a slug. So I'd just
16 like to see our old growth protected. It would be
17 great if -- I don't want to see any loggers put out of
18 business. I don't want to see the mill put out of
19 business, but for crying out loud why can't you find a
20 market for the second growth. They're all geared
21 towards the old growth because they don't want to
22 change. They don't want to retool. I don't know what.

23 You know, you drive around and you see the
24 clearcuts and there's nothing that survives out in the
25 clearcuts in the winter. All we need is one hard winter

1 and our few deer that we have left on the island are
2 just going to get absolutely crushed.

3 So, yeah, I'm totally opposed to logging any
4 more old growth on Prince of Wales. The reason is or
5 what's driving it is our deer. I guide for deer. I
6 cancelled my entire deer season because last winter I
7 took four hunters, spent 20 days in the field, over
8 three weeks, we had great weather, great hunters, went
9 top to bottom and we saw -- we killed four little crab
10 claw bucks and we saw one that was a decent deer. I
11 mean, trust me, if we have a bad winter this year,
12 there's going to be a whole bunch of people crying the
13 blues.

14 Anyway, that's what I got.

15 MR. VANORMER: I'm sorry, Mr. Whitehead. Could
16 you, for the record, state your name and spell it for
17 the recorder because this is going to be court
18 reported. I neglected to say that at the beginning.
19 So if you could just state your name for the record and
20 then spell it, that would be very helpful.

21 MR. WHITEHEAD: Kurt Whitehead, K-U-R-T
22 W-H-I-T-E-H-E-A-D. I live in Klawock, Alaska year
23 round. That it?

24 MR. VANORMER: Thank you very much. We have
25 Peggy Stevens up next and Cheryl Fecko will be after

1 that.

2 MS. STEVENS: Well, thank you very much for
3 your ability to come here to our little community and
4 talk to everybody and give us your presentation.

5 MR. VANORMER: Ms. Stevens, would you mind.....

6 MS. STEVENS: I'd be happy to.

7 MR. VANORMER:for the record your name
8 and spell it, please.

9 MS. STEVENS: My name is Peggy Stevens. That
10 is P-E-G-G-Y S-T-E-V-E-N-S. It's Box 814, Craig,
11 99921. It's my wish to see the betterment of mankind
12 in every aspect that it can be made. What I observe
13 here on our island of Prince of Wales is we have ample
14 land area relative to the amount of people here. We
15 have abundant sources of water that comes right out of
16 the rocks or, of course, we also have the nearby ocean
17 and we have lots of people that have left our island
18 for lack of work.

19 So what I see is we have resources that could
20 benefit mankind. The rain here falls, what, about 13
21 feet a year. Drop by drop that rain could be corralled
22 in mountain reservoirs, collected drop by drop for free
23 and then put to beneficial use for mankind's
24 prosperity, for perpetuity of mankind's convenience of
25 lifestyle. Water is consistently renewable. Water can

1 be conveyed to municipalities via cedar trees
2 delivering it. Water can generate electricity. Water
3 can make jobs available.

4 So it's my wish and desire to have the Tongass
5 available for sustainable development that benefits
6 mankind. Thank you very much for listening to me.

7 MR. VANORMER: Thank you very much. Next we
8 have Cheryl Fecko and then after that Roy Clark.
9 Thanks, Cheryl. Please remember to state your name and
10 spell it and we'll be good to go.

11 MS. FECKO: I'm going to sit and read the
12 comments that I wrote. My name is Cheryl Fecko,
13 C-H-E-R-Y-L F-E-C-K-O. I live in Craig, Alaska, P.O.
14 Box 268.

15 I'm a longtime resident of Prince of Wales
16 Island. Choosing to live where we can harvest deer,
17 salmon, berries and other foods to supplement our diet
18 with healthy alternatives.

19 I've been involved in Tongass issues since the
20 1980s. Over the decades our public lands of the
21 Tongass National Forest and more specifically those on
22 Prince of Wales Island have been clearcut and roaded to
23 an extent that has negatively impacted deer and other
24 wildlife habitat and reduced the areas where we've been
25 able to harvest subsistence foods.

1 Exempting Alaska from the Roadless Rule will
2 only further degrade the critical habitat areas left on
3 Prince of Wales. Most of our subsistence activities
4 are in roadless areas, including 11 Mile and the
5 outside islands. Over the years areas where we used to
6 harvest deer are no longer huntable because they are
7 either newly clearcut, roaded or in a dark, young
8 growth stage where no life exists.

9 Prince of Wales Island is already a patchwork
10 of fragmented wildlife habitat with little continuity
11 of the critical old growth needed for deer and other
12 old growth dependant species we harvest.

13 Also Prince of Wales is different from much of
14 the Tongass and other communities in Southeast Alaska
15 because the impacts on subsistence are not just from
16 National Forest land, but also from older and continued
17 logging on State lands, including the State Forest
18 lands, University of Alaska and Mental Health Trust
19 lands, as well as the private land logged by Sealaska
20 and other Native corporations in Southeast over the
21 decades.

22 Land selection and land exchanges continue to
23 happen. The cumulative impacts on deer and other
24 wildlife habitat need to be addressed fully. The
25 Forest Service needs to look more specifically at these

1 cumulative impacts to deer habitat from lands already
2 harvested adjacent to the National Forest.

3 The impacts for us are much greater than just
4 looking at which roadless areas of the Tongass would
5 impact subsistence users. There was a greater need to
6 look at the fragmented landscape on Prince of Wales and
7 to keep the areas of old growth habitat that remain
8 intact.

9 The no action alternative, keeping roadless
10 areas roadless, is critical for Prince of Wales Island
11 subsistence users. Prince of Wales Island and other
12 rural areas within the Tongass National Forest are
13 different from other regions of the country. We don't
14 want to be compared to Idaho or Colorado to look for
15 ways to care for and manage our public land. Our lives
16 are more connected to and there is a greater reliance
17 upon the fish, wildlife and plants that we harvest and
18 the habitat they require.

19 I urge the Forest Service, Secretary Perdue,
20 Governor Dunleavy, our Congressional Delegation and
21 President Trump to keep the Roadless Rule protections
22 in place for the Tongass and select the no action
23 alternative.

24 Thank you all for the opportunity.

25 MR. VANORMER: Thank you, Cheryl. Next I'll

1 call up Roy Clark. Currently he's our final speaker we
2 have in the queue. If anybody wants to participate,
3 you can fill one of these out. Roy, come on up. You
4 can stand or sit, whatever is comfortable. Just make
5 sure you start by stating your name and spelling it.

6 MR. CLARK: My name is Roy Clark, R-O-Y
7 C-L-A-R-K. I live in Craig, Alaska, P.O. Box 165.
8 I've lived here for about 34 years now. Came in 1985
9 as a timber sale administrator for the U.S. Forest
10 Service. Under my administration of the timber sales
11 I've probably been involved in a billion board feet
12 being taken.

13 Now in my opinion when I got here, when I got
14 off the ferry, I told my wife, I said, man, look at
15 this. This is like what you dream of. You see so many
16 animals. The fishing was incredible. Even though my
17 first thing was with humpies, so it's always
18 incredible. My son and I used to see if we could cast
19 without catching something.

20 (Laughter)

21 MR. CLARK: In a lot of times now this has
22 changed, you know. Some of the places that had flowing
23 water already logged in steep places, there's
24 landslides, put sediment into the creeks, kills eggs in
25 a lot of cases.

1 This is a special place. Like the last of the
2 temperate rain forest that's intact, kind of. You
3 know, we've lost a lot of wildlife corridors. Like
4 I've heard, the hunting is nothing like it used to be.
5 I've been on places and I've climbed almost every
6 mountain on this island. I'd go up there and I've
7 actually had to shew deer away. It sounds kind of
8 stupid, but it's true.

9 We used to drive different places. It's now
10 been logged along the road. You'd see -- well, in an
11 extreme, my wife and I coming home from Thorne Bay
12 we've counted like 50 deer, 50-plus. Now you come back
13 and how many do you see. Maybe four or five.

14 There is too much pressure with roads. Roads
15 near streams, no matter what you do, you have drains,
16 trucks and things driving on them, cars. Sometimes we
17 get rain here.

18 (Laughter)

19 MR. CLARK: It puts more and more sediment into
20 these ditches. It flows down into the streams, so the
21 more roads -- believe it or not, overall, the way the
22 rules are, and they could be very strict because I was,
23 some people didn't like me much, but you have different
24 kinds of logging. You have partial suspension, full
25 suspension and highly. Highly used to be the biggy

1 here, but it's changed now so it doesn't do the damage.

2 But the lands are sensitive and the more you do
3 this and the farther you go into these areas, they'll
4 take a backline almost to the muskeg. I used to delete
5 those things because, you know, you can't have tail
6 holds. No muskeg. Muskeg is there for a purpose. If
7 you keep more of it, it's like a desert. If you cut
8 closer and closer, it continues to overtake things.

9 You might see a tree this tall that's 150 years
10 old. That's not from good soil. Then you go to other
11 places, Shelikof Island was the most extreme example I
12 ever saw. I got there and the places that had been
13 logged we used to take shots for lines. In some places
14 you could only see like 10 or 15 feet and then you'd
15 get out of that and these trees were massive. It was
16 all in the good type of soil; cryosols, limestone. I
17 saw them cut trees that were 14-foot in diameter. You
18 don't see that anymore. The more we go into this, the
19 less you're ever going to see it.

20 I could go forever, but thank you.

21 MR. VANORMER: Thank you, Roy. All right. At
22 this time -- yes.

23 MR. KAMPNICH: (Indiscernible).

24 MR. VANORMER: Are you going to testify or do
25 you just have a question?

1 MR. KAMPNICH: Yes, I'd like to.

2 MR. VANORMER: Okay. Yeah.

3 MR. KAMPNICH: Do you want me to fill one out
4 first or can I just do it?

5 MR. VANORMER: No, no. You can just come on
6 up. We'll have you fill one out afterwards. I think
7 you saw the routine. State your name and spell it out.

8 MR. KAMPNICH: Thanks. My name is Michael
9 Kampnich. My last name is spelled K-A-M-P-N-I-C-H.
10 Resident of Craig. Been here for 35 years. Been in
11 the Tongass for nearly 40. I also would like to touch
12 on the concern with deer and the changes we've seen
13 over the 40 years or so that I've been here.

14 It's clear to me that we have a significant
15 habitat issue. There's nearly a million acres of young
16 growth that is in Unit 2, which is Prince of Wales and
17 the islands to the west. A significant percentage of
18 this is pulp mill era harvest. These young growth
19 stands today are entering into the stem exclusion
20 phase. Until recently this was not something that
21 people would have noticed and myself even would not
22 have, you know, thought a lot about it.

23 The number of deer and the hunting has become
24 much more difficult in the last -- you could really
25 start to notice it about 10 years ago and it's really

1 become glaring in the last five years. This is clearly
2 tied to a loss of old growth habitat that supports
3 deer. Much of the pulp mill era stands today are
4 entering into stem exclusion, which we've heard
5 referred to here. There's very little forage in a fully
6 stem excluded forest and this is going to continue to
7 manifest itself for decades to come. I don't think
8 that that's something that people are really, really --
9 I don't think people understand how long this is going
10 to go.

11 Foresters and forestry research shows that stem
12 exclusion lasts for somewhere between 50 and 75 to 150
13 years. Then it only begins to revert to full old
14 growth conditions at about 200 to 300 years, generally
15 around 250. That's what some of the best research
16 says.

17 So we're looking at a future where we will
18 never within several generations see the kind of deer
19 hunting that most of us experienced on this island 10,
20 20, 30 years ago. It used to be you could go out --
21 you know, it wasn't a question whether you were going
22 to see one, it's how many and how many you wanted to
23 take. Today, if you see one, you're fortunate and you
24 better take it.

25 I think it's incumbent upon the Forest Service

1 to seriously consider the implications of this as they
2 go forward in any future old growth sales. The
3 remaining old growth is exponentially more important
4 for habitat purposes, for our deer.

5 I cannot support, you know, overturning the
6 Roadless Rule. I support leaving things status quo. I
7 would like to see the industry remain here, but I think
8 it's also incumbent upon them to seriously begin a
9 transition and figure this out. If they want to be
10 helpful to the communities and to the island and our
11 environment, then they should be contributing to a
12 transition.

13 I'd like to leave people with this one last
14 thought. Part of the Forest Service's mandate is to
15 support community economic development opportunities.
16 What we know is that fishing, commercial fishing,
17 guided fishing, recreational fishing, subsistence
18 fishing and visitor industry are the biggest private
19 drivers of the economy in Southeast Alaska. They both
20 require and work off of one thing and that's our
21 environment.

22 I think it's time to recognize that protecting
23 our natural environment is the best economic
24 development plan we can devise for the future of
25 Southeast Alaska.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. VANORMER: Thank you, Mike. Sheets are in
3 the back there. All right. At this time any more
4 interest in testimony.

5 (No comments)

6 MR. VANORMER: Okay. With that being said, I
7 believe the time now is 7:30. What we're going to do
8 is just kind of pause and we'll be here until 9:00
9 o'clock tonight if anyone wants to come back up or if
10 you want to make a phone call to a neighbor or somebody
11 to come on down. We'll be here until 9:00 o'clock
12 taking testimony, but at this time we'll go ahead at
13 7:30 p.m. and pause until we have more interest,
14 someone who wants to give some testimony or so. Thank
15 you.

16 (Off record)

17 (On record)

18 MR. VANORMER: All right. We do have someone
19 who signed in, ready to give some testimony. Mr. Frank
20 Lee, why don't you come on up. I'll just do a time
21 check for the record. The time is now 7:40 and we are
22 back and I'm calling Mr. Frank Lee up. Welcome. When
23 you start off just state your name and if you could
24 spell it out for the record and then you can go from
25 there. Okay.

1 MR. LEE: All right. Thanks. My name is Frank
2 Lee, F-R-A-N-K L-E-E. My home town is in Chichagof
3 Island, but we all have the same issues, you know.
4 We're all subsistence. I was born and raised in
5 Southeast. Hear everybody talking they moved here,
6 moved there, but I was pretty much born and we all have
7 the same issues, you know, and it's subsistence.

8 I heard somebody say one time, you know,
9 subsistence is a thing of the past and I kind of shook
10 my head at that because I grew up subsistence. My
11 mother -- my tribe is from Glacier Bay. I'm a
12 Chookaneidi. My mother grew up in Glacier Bay and the
13 Park Service moved them out back in the '30s. They
14 made it a National Monument.

15 She was up there putting the food away,
16 subsistence, you know, putting fish away and
17 everything. When the government come in, they asked
18 her to move. They kicked her out. Didn't ask her.
19 They kicked her out. Then they burned up the house,
20 burned up the smokehouse and told them not to come
21 back. They made it a National Monument and one of the
22 biggest tourist traps around Southeast.

23 Anyway, I'm from Hoonah, but we all seem to
24 have the same issue. One of the biggest ones is the
25 deer, you know. My dad, you know -- I mean everybody's

1 hit on it, you know. That old growth, we need the old
2 growth, you know. They want to take 150 acres of old
3 growth out, you know, and they're targeting the old
4 growth. We've got to leave the old growth alone. The
5 deer winter there. It's their safe haven. If you take
6 out the old growth, you're taking out the deer too.

7 I was here maybe a couple weeks ago they were
8 talking about the wolves, you know. But I think it's
9 all these roads they're building. They're talking
10 roadless, you know, and they build too many roads.
11 That's the same thing they did in Hoonah. We get
12 hunters from Haines, Skagway, Juneau, Petersburg, Kake,
13 Angoon. They all come from Hoonah to hunt.

14 We've got no more deer over there anymore. The
15 same thing here. Down here they blame the wolves. I
16 think everybody has got to be blamed on this, you know.
17 It's not only the wolves, it's all the hunters. Never
18 had that many hunters hunt them before.

19 A subsistence lifestyle takes a lot of work. I
20 used to get up before it gets daylight and I wouldn't
21 come back home until it was dark. I always made sure I
22 brought something home. We do that all winter. Come
23 January after hunting season is closed you make sure
24 your freezer is full, got everything in there, then you
25 can kind of take it easy for a couple months until you

1 go fishing.

2 That fishing too, you know. They're having
3 hearings on this transboundary stuff. That
4 transboundary will destroy a lot of fish. Look at that
5 Mount Polley down there in British Columbia. Nobody
6 knows what that dam did yet. I heard they want to
7 build a dam up there at Pebble Mine. It says it lasts
8 200 years. What's 200 years. Tlingits been here
9 40,000, 50, 60,000 years. Two hundred years is
10 nothing.

11 Everything has an impact on our land here.
12 They talk about impact statement. Nobody really knows
13 the impact. We do. We feel it. All our fish is gone.
14 Back in the '20 we had these fish traps and fish traps
15 catch fish 24 hours a day. Fishermen, only eight, ten
16 hours they give us now.

17 Until they start paying, giving people money to
18 go do it, everybody start doing it. When it was a
19 subsistence lifestyle, we did it to barter. We'd go to
20 Haines, go to Juneau, go to Klukwan and we trade them
21 subsistence for subsistence. Up in Haines they get
22 moose and we don't get moose on our island.

23 Anyway, until the almighty dollar came into
24 play it was all subsistence and that's what we're
25 talking about tonight. I don't think it will ever

1 change. I think it will probably get worse before it
2 gets better. Everybody has to work together if they
3 really want to make an impact on what they're doing.
4 Until everybody works together ain't nothing going to
5 happen.

6 It's got to be the Forest Service, got to be
7 the Fish and Game and they've all got to work together.
8 All the tribes, everybody. Until that happens it's
9 going to be the same, you know.

10 That's all I've got to say. Thank you.

11 MR. VANORMER: All right. Thank you very much.
12 At this time I'll ask if there's anybody else who would
13 like to give some testimony.

14 (No comments)

15 MR. VANORMER: All right. Hearing none. We'll
16 go ahead and go on a pause here again. The time is now
17 7:48. Thank you.

18 (Off record)

19 (On record)

20 MR. VANORMER: All right. The time is now 9:00
21 o'clock. I've now called those persons who identified
22 on the sign-in sheet that they desired to make oral
23 comments. Is there anyone I may have missed or
24 omitted?

25 (No comments)

1 MR. VANORMER: Hearing none. Is there anyone
2 who didn't indicate a desire to present an oral comment
3 but wishes to do so now?

4 (No comments)

5 MR. VANORMER: There being no further comments
6 I close this meeting. You may submit written comments
7 after this meeting until December 17th, 2019. All the
8 addresses and instructions for submitting comments are
9 included in the handouts given to you when you arrived.

10 Thank you very much for participating in this
11 process tonight. The Forest Service is looking forward
12 to the comments on this issue from tribes, ANCSA
13 corporations and general public. After all comments
14 are received and evaluated a final rule in the Alaska
15 roadless rulemaking process will be decided by the
16 Secretary of Agriculture by summer of 2020.

17 Thank you all for coming tonight.

18 (Off record)

19 (END OF RECORDING)

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1 TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

2 I, Salena A. Hile, hereby certify that the
3 foregoing pages numbered 02 through 29 are a true,
4 accurate, and complete transcript of ANILCA PUBLIC
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6 from a copy of an electronic sound recording to the
7 best of our knowledge and ability.

8

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DATE_____
SALENA A. HILE, (Transcriber)

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